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Letter dated 20 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to my letter dated 15 October 1997 (A/52/466-S/1997/801), I have the honour to draw your attention to continuing violations of the flight information region of Nicosia and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish air force which took place on 15 September 1997.

On that day, 16 Turkish military planes entered the Nicosia flight information region in violation of the international regulations of civil aviation. At 1106 hours, two of these Turkish planes, which were F-4s, violated the national airspace of the Republic, flying near the coast of Paphos, in the western part of the island. At 1155 hours, two RF-4s and two F4Es once again violated national airspace, flying over the occupied area of Karpasia in the north-eastern part of the country. The other planes, four F-16s, two F-4s and four RF-4s, from 1042 hours to 1444 hours repeatedly violated the Nicosia flight information region.

As indicated in my previous letters, such provocative actions by Turkey are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state, inter alia, that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement, disregarding at the same time international air rules and endangering civil aviation flights in the area.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to protest strongly once again against the new violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, which are in complete disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Cyprus to the
United Nations